



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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Contact: Nancy Singer (202) 205-6740
Internet Address: www.sba.gov/news/

SBA EXPANDS WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER NETWORK TO 93 CENTERS

WASHINGTON -- Aída Alvarez, Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), today announced the opening of eight new women's business centers this year and new funding for 16 others. The Women's Business Center Program offers training, counseling, and mentoring services to current and potential women entrepreneurs.

"The SBA's Women's Business Center Program is one of the best resources for women entrepreneurs who need assistance in starting or growing a business," said Administrator Alvarez. **"It's an excellent example of how public and private sectors can work together to help women business owners."**

"With these eight new centers, there will be 93 centers nationwide – in 46 states, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands. We are closer to our goal of having at least one center in every state and territory now that Virginia, Kansas, and American Samoa have centers."

Under the Sustainability Pilot Program, the SBA will also provide additional grants for 16 existing centers that have either completed their SBA funding cycle or are in their fifth year of funding. Each of these centers is required to match federal grant funds with private contributions.

Women's business centers are located in rural, urban and suburban areas, and direct much of their training and counseling assistance toward socially and economically disadvantaged women. They offer mentoring and technical assistance and many innovative training programs in financial management, marketing, and procurement. Some centers offer training and mentoring in several languages. The centers also provide specialized programs that address issues facing displaced workers and rural home-based entrepreneurs.

The Women's Business Center Program was established by Congress in 1988 and is administered by the SBA's Office of Women's Business Ownership. For additional information on the programs available at each new center, refer to the attached list and contact the organizations directly. For more information and a complete listing of the existing women's business center locations, visit the Online Women's Business Center at www.onlinewbc.org/docs/wbcs/.

For more information on all of SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA, or visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov.

New Women's Business Center Awards, FY-2000
Contact List

American Samoa Women's Business Center

P.O. Box 6849

Pago Pago, American Samoa, 96799

Enterprise Center of Johnson County

9875 Widmer Road

Lenexa, KS 66215

Center for Business Innovation, Inc.

4747 Troost Avenue

Kansas City, MO 64110-1727

South Fairfax Regional Business Partnership, Inc.

6911 Richmond Highway, Suite 290

Alexandria, VA 22306

The Local Development Corporation of East New York

80 Jamaica Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11207

Arizona Council for Economic Conversion (ACEC)

P.O. Box 42108

Tucson, Arizona 85733

NC Institute of Minority Economic Development

114 S. Parrish Street, 6th Floor

P.O. Box 1331

Durham, North Carolina 27701

WomenVenture

2324 University Avenue West

St. Paul, MN 55114

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